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Book Reviews.

Dissertations on the Apostolic Age. Reprinted from Editions of St. Paul's Epistles. By the late J. B. LIGHTFOOT, D.D., D.C.L., LL.D., Lord Bishop of Durham. London: Macmillan & Co., 1892. pp. 435.

The five dissertations reprinted in this volume possess an independent value, and are re-issued in this form in the hope that they may reach a larger number of general readers. The topics discussed are, "The Brethren of the Lord," "St. Paul and the Three," "The Christian Ministry," "St. Paul and Seneca," and "The Essenes." The only additions are full indexes of subjects and passages, and a few pages of supplementary notes to the essay on "The Christian Ministry." In this the main position held by the church of England, "that from the Apostles' time there have been these orders of ministers in Christ's church, bishops, priests and deacons," is reaffirmed, and certain misapprehensions corrected. The dissertations have been so long before the public, and are so well-known, as to need no extended critical notice. Many whose studies do not lead them to a use of Bishop Lightfoot's invaluable commentaries will, nevertheless, be glad to possess these models of careful and critical scholarship in a separate form. P. A. N.

A Short Commentary on the Book of Daniel. By A. A. BEVAN, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. New York: MacMillan & Co., 1892. Pp. XIII. and 235. \$1.75.

The author states in the preface that this volume is intended "to assist those who are entering upon the study of the language and text of the Book of Daniel." He does not claim to present much that is new, but attempts to bring together into a small compass material valuable for the understanding of this book. In his "Prolegomena" he discusses briefly the text and the oldest versions, ancient and mediæval interpreters, and modern interpreters; the origin and purpose of the book, its linguistic character, and the Septuagint version.

Mr. Bevan disposes of a large amount of material in this introduction, but is not sufficiently careful in his statements. On p. 16 he finds a difficulty where none occurs; Nebuchadrezzar made his *first trip* to Palestine before he became actual king on the throne of Babylon, the years of Dan. i. 1. agreeing exactly with the statements of Jer. xxv. 1. On p. 18, it seems evident to his mind that Belshazzar is represented in Daniel as supreme ruler, "which certainly does not agree with the theory [it is no theory, but a fact] that his father was still alive and at the head of the state." On p. 40 are examples of statements which the author would not have made if he had

been sufficiently acquainted with Babylonian. In speaking of the existence of Greek words in Daniel, he says: "In order to reconcile this fact with the theory of the antiquity of the book, it has been maintained that the names of the musical instruments . . . may have been borrowed from the Greeks by the Babylonians as early as the 6th century B. C. Such a supposition, if not absolutely impossible, is at least extremely precarious, and wholly unsupported by the evidence of the cuneiform inscriptions." Does the author entirely ignore the fact that for at least 1,000 years before the date assigned to Daniel there was lively commercial intercourse between all the great nations of western Asia, northern Africa and Europe? Such statements as the above are injudicious and misleading, and are, I am sorry to say, too frequent in the pages of the book. He locates the composition of Daniel, as does the school which he follows, in the Maccabæan period. His arguments are substantially those of his party. His linguistic and historical notes reveal little that is new, but give us a good compilation of all that tends to substantiate his position. His interpretation of the book accords with his views of its date. One is somewhat surprised constantly to find the author speaking *ex cathedra* on points which are extremely doubtful. Mr. Bevan should carefully revise and tone down many of his statements before another edition. Some special work in the line of Babylonian literature and history would add vastly to the usefulness of his book. As it is, it will serve a good purpose, but must be used with caution. It is supplied with valuable indexes of Scripture texts and Aramaic words.

PRICE.

Amos: An Essay in Exegesis. By H. G. MITCHELL, Professor in Boston University. Boston: N. J. Bartlett & Co. Pp. 209.

By German, as well as English commentators, the prophecy of Amos has been singularly neglected. The Cambridge Bible series, which is now nearly complete in the department of prophecy, has not yet given us a volume on this important book. Professor Mitchell tells us in his preface that his essay in exegesis is intended especially for use in schools of theology, but he has so carefully limited the critical notes that one cannot but feel that he has fallen a little below his aim, and hit rather the great public of Bible students who are interested in all things scriptural, but do not have the time for original investigation. The book is popular throughout, and well calculated to present in attractive form the general results of scholarship in the study of Amos. Of the deeper questions of the prophecy—textual, critical and theological—some are ignored, some raised, none treated exhaustively. But at the present day there is a growing demand for this type of book. The author's plan in accomplishing his task is one which is commending itself more and more to Bible students as the only true and scientific method of studying prophecy. He first introduces us to the surroundings and times of the prophet, then he